



CITY CONNECTION

Meet the Crew that Keeps our Streets Clean

In the 1880s the Manassas Town Council's Street Committee required 20 residents to report to work with rakes and shovels to maintain the town's gravel roads when necessary. Today, the Manassas Street Department gets a little help from a massive leaf vacuum, a street sweeper, and an eager staff who takes pride in keeping a much larger network of paved streets, parking lots, and sidewalks clean and safe for all of us who drive, walk or bike through the City.

"We take a lot of pride in the job we do," Street Maintenance Superintendent James "Bud" Mullins says of his experienced crew, who might find themselves cleaning or plowing streets, grading ditches, clearing storm water outfalls, repairing and constructing sidewalks and gutters, repairing storm pipes, or cleaning up after storms, accidents, or events in every kind of weather.

The leaf crew will start taking center stage this month, rotating through neighborhoods to vacuum leaves residents have raked to the curb, but the leaf collection job won't be finished until mid-January. By then, crews may have to start 12-hour shifts behind the wheel of the City's 14 snowplows if winter storms blanket the City with snow. Throughout the year on every weekday crews run the sweeper through neighborhoods and parking lots, aiming to reach every section of the City four times a year. And each day the crew scans streets and sidewalks for potential problems before small problems turn into big repairs.

Staff members point to Senior Crew Member Thomas Queen—who has served with the Street Department for 35 years—as a great teacher.

"Experience is the number one

training," veteran Equipment Operator Don Neal notes. "We're fortunate enough to show the guys how to do things and they can practice it and learn really quickly."

In addition to on-the-job mentoring, the crew attends safety classes sponsored by OSHA and VDOT, and classes on chainsaw operation, welding, flagging, first aid, driving, and equipment operation.

Some of their training teaches them how to stay safe in extreme weather. "We use a lot of sunscreen and stay hydrated with water and electrolyte drinks," Allison Rock says of their days working in the heat of summer. The crew also learns to contend with preventing falls on ice and staying warm in winter storms.

Street Department staff appreciates the support and compliments they get from residents for jobs well done, and hopes that residents will remember a few easy steps to help keep their neighborhoods cleaner. This fall and winter that means making sure no branches are mixed in with leaves, keeping vehicles off the street on leaf collection days and

during winter storms, waiting to clear snow off of driveway entrances until the plow has passed, being careful to pick up trash that might block storm drains, and being patient as crews make their way through neighborhoods.

"It's cool to see what we accomplish," Brandon Jenkins says of the Department's day-to-day work "and to look back to see that jobs turned out well."

"We're proud of these employees who have won awards and have fun doing what they do, and residents should be proud too," Mullins says.



A Moment with the Mayor



Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

We are now full swing into fall and I am looking forward to the changes the seasons bring! We have parades and festivals planned, and as always, I so enjoy seeing all of you. It's everything pumpkin and Honeycrisp apple time. I always enjoy the smells of the season!

Please remember if you still need a COVID test, get one and we encourage everyone 12 and over to get a vaccine. I want to keep sharing those wonderful hugs you all give me and seeing your beautiful smiles around town!

We also celebrate Halloween this month and while I know Halloween is always a fun and exciting time, I want to remind you to please continue to be safe and watch out for the little ones who venture out for trick-or-treat. Remember to wash your hands and stay safely distanced at all times.

October brings about some big-time celebrations for my family. I actually LOVE when our residents stop me and mention things that I have included in previous newsletters about my family. People say they enjoy learning more about me. So, October 1st is my wonderful husband James' birthday (he's older than me... just saying). Our wonderful, beautiful

granddaughter Madison Rose turns the big one on October 9 and then on October 10th James and I celebrate our lucky 13th wedding anniversary. Lots of celebrations and lots of cake are in my future! October is also the month we celebrate Boss' day...so do a little something extra for your boss! Keep your eyes open for the many City events we have coming up this month: Fall Jubilee, Manassas Latino Festival, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Haunted Happenings...there is something for everyone in all age groups!

Here's to another month of love and hope in the City of Manassas! Please remember to be kind to one another, and most importantly, volunteer to help ensure the success of our City in any way you can. Visit our website www.manassasva.gov for more information. It takes all of us to make this the best place to live, play and raise a family!

Until next month!

Trash & Recycling Note

RecycleFest is Coming!

RecycleFest is the largest drop-off event for household hazardous waste, electronics, and document shredding for City of Manassas residents. Join us Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station located at 8305 Quarry Road.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. In 2020, City of Manassas residents dropped off more than 167 tons of recyclable material at nine household hazardous waste and electronic waste drop off days held at the Manassas Transfer Station.

At Recyclefest, City residents can drop off household hazardous waste, electronic waste and shred up to four boxes of paper documents, for free. Proof of residency is required to enter and no commercial waste will be accepted.

Visit www.manassasva.gov/trash for more details.

Get Ready for the Holidays

The holidays are coming, and soon there will be guests, gifts ... and a whole lot of trash. Did you know that Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week! Here are 3 tips to help you avoid holiday trash disasters:

- Check your trash and recycling containers now. Throughout the year, trash and recycling containers go through a lot of wear and tear. As the cold weather sets in, older containers become more brittle and break. You can request to have your containers replaced online by visiting www.manassasva.gov/

trash or by calling the Trashline at (703) 257-8252. You can also request additional trash or recycling containers.

- Don't get stuck overloading the curb with excess bulk waste. Residents may schedule up to three items for bulk waste collection including white goods, televisions and computer monitors. Call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252 at least 24-hours before your collection day. Quick reminder – bulk waste collection for single family homes is on Wednesday.
- Remember your recycling rules. Things can get pretty hectic when you have a full house. Remember to recycle hard plastic containers, paper, cardboard, glass jars, and metal containers. Don't forget to keep them empty, clean, dry, and loose in your recycling container. No plastic bags will be accepted.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
W. Patrick Pate

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year, because each fall we recognize our City employees who go Above & Beyond for the City of Manassas. This is actually the name of our most prestigious award – the Above & Beyond Award. The City has two other award categories for staff, the City Beat Award and the Servant's Heart Award. The staff nominated for these awards can be nominated by any member of staff from any department, or they are nominated by the thoughtful letters and emails we receive from residents.

This year there were 103 nominations representing 77 members of staff. Several staff members were nominated more than once, meaning that they are thought of very highly among their peers and among our residents. Customer Service is one of the pillars of the City's vision and values and one of the areas where the City is rated most highly in the Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

For 2021, we have two Above & Beyond Awards recognizing a duo and an individual. Sgt. Andrew Brooks of the Manassas City Police Department is the first winner of the Above & Beyond Award. Sgt. Brooks constantly works to help foster teamwork and better relationships among staff and the public. During the pandemic, when most things were shut down, including most SWAT operator schools, Sgt.

Brooks drafted a comprehensive SWAT lesson plan to train staff inhouse. After receiving an endorsement from the Northern Virginia Police Academy and the Department of Criminal Justice Services Standards, Brooks coordinated logistical and instructor help, and secured sites to ensure successful completion of the course.

In July 2021, the Manassas City Police Department graduated nine additional trained members of the SWAT team. This ensures that the Manassas City Police Department SWAT team is fully deployable should the need arise.

Carlos Perez, Property Code Enforcement Supervisor from the Community Development Department and Wil Macias, Customer Service Representative with Utilities, worked together and separately to help the Engineering Department communicate with the public regarding upcoming projects. Not only did they translate written documents, but they also attended evening meetings off-site and online meetings to help with translation.

"Carlos and Wil provided excellent Customer Service," said Nyika Roberson-Ramos of the Engineering Department. "They gave their time to attend early morning resident meetings, complete last-minute written translations, and participated in several late evening meetings and we are very grateful for their efforts."

Carlos and Wil helped the Engineering Department meet deadlines, were very patient and professional, and went the extra mile to provide the best service for our community.

This year, the City Beat Award recognizes one group and two individuals. Senior Human Resources Analyst Lena Ampofo receives the City Beat Award for her exemplary work to onboard staff during the pandemic. Lena had to pivot hard to create online hiring processes and onboard new staff quickly and safely.

Public Safety Communications Manager Jathiya Wright was

nominated twice by her peers for her outstanding leadership, not only for leadership during the pandemic, but for a willingness to step into any role necessary as needed.

The team of William Gormours, Brandon Payne, Robert Shipe, and Pete Woodson from the Water & Sewer Division are being recognized for their general hard work, but also for completing difficult drainage installs and rehabbing stormwater ponds.

These are just a few examples of the outstanding work that city employees are doing for us, the residents of Manassas. I am extremely proud of the work that they do on a daily basis every single day of the year without exception. So, to all of my city colleagues I say, Thank You!

W. Patrick Pate

Leaf Collection Schedule

Find the leaf pickup schedule for your neighborhood at:
manassasva.gov/leaves

Maps are also available at City Hall and Utilities Customer Service.



Shop the Echoes clearance sale as the Manassas Museum Store gets ready to move to the Visitor Center at the Depot in November. The Museum will be closed for renovations starting in December.

The City of Manassas Happenings

Find these events and more in the City of Manassas, Virginia. For more information go to www.visitmanassas.org.

Farmer's Market for the Season:

Thursday Farmer's Market at the Harris Pavilion and Saturday Farmer's Market on Prince William Street Commuter Lot - Hours for both are 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

History Virtual Talks

Wednesday **Spotlight on History Virtual Talks**, tune in each week at www.facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure

Oct. 1 from 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **38th Annual Fall Jubilee**

Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous and eWaste dropoff** at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road

Oct. 3 from 12 - 4 p.m. - **Equality Prince William Pride 2021** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct 4 – Sign up for the **Gingerbread House contest** at www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. - **Special Occasions Band** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Manassas Latino Festival** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale at the Hylton Performing Arts - **The Roaring Twenties: Then and Now**

Oct. 15 - 17 - Manassas Ballet presents **"Dracula"** at the Hylton Performing Arts

Oct. 15 - **Cemetery Tours** by the Manassas Museum

Oct. 16 & 17 - Pied Piper Theatre presents **Fiddler on the Roof Jr.** at Metz Middle School

Oct. 16 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. - **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 17 from 2 - 6 p.m. - **Best of the Region** art show @Creative Brush Studio. Show will continue through Nov. 18

Oct. 22 - **Cemetery Tours** by the Manassas Museum

Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Saturday **Early In-person Voting**

Oct. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. - **Artist Inventory Sale** at the Harris Pavilion

Oct. 23 from 7 - 9 p.m. - **Spirits of Liberia Tours**

Oct. 30 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Saturday **Early In-person Voting LAST DAY TO VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON**

Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon - **Haunted Happenings** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Oct. 30 - Nov. 30 - Manassas Ballet Theatre streams **"Dracula"** performance

Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Holiday Crafts, Desserts & Sweets** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

Nov. 2 - Election Day - for more information visit www.manassasva.gov/vote

Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. - **Gallery Walk** in Historic Downtown Manassas

Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous, eWaste and shredding** at the Manassas Transfer Station - 8305 Quarry Road

When weather permits - **Ice Skating** is back at the Harris Pavilion

Dec. 3 beginning at 5:15 p.m. - **Santa Lights Manassas**

Dec. 3 - Dec. 19 - **Merry Old Town** - free Sunday carriage rides, sparkling City lights and more

Dec 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. - First Friday **Jolly Ol' Confections**

Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. - **75th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade - Right Down Santa Claus Lane**

Dec 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **City of Manassas Holiday Market with VRE Santa train**

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Vice Mayor

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